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of Jesus' life to the essential features. Thus, in the arrangement of the crowded period of the Galilean ministry Professor Gilbert has so arranged his material that it is possible for the student to get some sense of progress in the life of Jesus.

Accordingly, while we cannot ascribe to the work anything like the position which should be given to such great works as Edersheim and Weiss, we can, nevertheless, confidently recommend it as the best handbook of the life of Jesus the student yet has at his command.

The other two books are of a different nature. They are intended rather as a sort of running commentary upon the so-called Blakeslee lessons. They are possessed of good qualities, but not sufficient good qualities to raise them above the ordinary level of first-class lesson helps. The chief value of each is the broad, liberal spirit which breathes through the studies, and the rapid but always sane homiletic turn given to the teaching of Jesus. If our Sunday schools could have more of this sort of teaching it would be far better for them. To anyone who wishes a book that combines brief exegesis with sensible and inspiring comment, we would recommend either of the two little volumes, of Dr. Abbott or Mrs. Houghton.

S. M.

History of the People of Israel : Period of Jewish Independence and Judea under Roman Rule. By ERNEST RENAN. Vol. V. Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1895. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$2.50.

With this volume Renan completed the great work with which his name has been so eminently associated. In it he covers the time from the reign of Simon until the death of Herod I. It is a period which, probably more than any of those he has covered, is especially fitted to Renan's method of treatment. There is so much that is spectacular, the change from victory to defeat, the succession of conspiracies, the march of the Roman power are altogether so dramatic as to lend themselves readily to the vivacious style with which this generation of readers of theological works is so familiar. The period has another advantage in that it opens up few questions of criticism in which the attitude taken by Renan would be distasteful to many readers. That portion of the book which deals with the Jewish literature of the period is probably its least successful portion. Do the best he can, Renan cannot appreciate the Jewish spirit. His attempt to translate the passionate hopes of the Maccabean period, as well as the serene metaphysics of the Alexandrian school, into modern thought resembles the translation of Homer by a writer of society verses. Yet in none of his volumes has Renan given evidence of great reading or scholarship. He has handled much of the literature at first hand, and if it were not for his desire to preach, and to compress a philosophy into a succession of pregnant sentences, pages 261-354 would

have considerable value as a brief statement of Jewish thought of the period. As it is, it is hopelessly inferior to the volume of Schürer.

As the last volume of the author on the subject of Judaism and Christianity, it has considerable interest as containing Renan's final statement of belief (p. 356 *et seq.*). This view is not different from that with which he began his history of the *Origins of Christianity*. There is in it little of the sober, impartial search for historical fact which, despite their presuppositions, marks the works of Weizäcker and Harnack. On the contrary, there is the desire for the picturesque and the epigrammatic. Yet his fundamental view is admirable—as far as it goes. He is profoundly convinced, he says (p. 357), "that not only Jesus lived, but that he was great and noble—so great and noble that the world worships him, because the people with whom he was associated loved him so dearly." If this is an imperfect statement of the heart of Christianity, it is at least better than nothing. But New Testament scholarship is advancing so steadily from the ground which Renan thus occupies that as an expression of today's thinking it was anachronistic before it was written.

S. M.

LITERARY NOTES.

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS have published a popular edition of *Villari: Life and Times of Savonarola* (\$2.50).

The seventh bound volume of the *Expository Times* has just appeared. We have had occasion to refer to this excellent journal repeatedly, but the appearance of this new volume calls for a special word of appreciation. While in some particulars hardly so scholarly, certainly not so technical as the *Expositor*, the *Expository Times* shows high editorial ability. There is no more readable magazine dealing with biblical topics, while its book reviews are as incisive as its editorials. (Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, \$2.50.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

<i>Shadow and Substance. An Exposition of Tabernacle Types.</i> By Geo. C. Needham. (Philadelphia: Am. Bap. Pub. Soc., 1896, pp. 199.)	<i>With Christ, in the school of Prayer.</i> By the Rev. Andrew Murray. (Chicago: F. H. Revell Co., 1895, pp. 274.)	\$0.50.
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<i>Notes from My Bible. From Genesis to Revelation.</i> By D. L. Moody. (Chicago: F. H. Revell Co., 1895, pp. 236.)	<i>Conflict and Conquest. Experiences of Father Flynn.</i> By Geo. C. Needham. (Philadelphia: Am. Bap. Pub. Soc., 1896, pp. 123.)
\$1.00.	